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BOROUGH



OF RYDE, I.W.

ANNUAL REPORT

for 1952

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1952.

(As constituted at 20th May, 1952.)

The Mayor—Alderman L. A. Wheeler.

Alderman Russell (<i>Chairman</i>)	Councillor Lewer
Councillor Evans (<i>Vice-Chm.</i>)	Councillor Matthews
Alderman Chiverton	Councillor Ramage
Alderman Feakes	Councillor Slinn
Councillor Castle	Councillor Sutton
Councillor Cleaver	Councillor White

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1952.

Medical Officer of Health : D. WARREN BROWNE,†*
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector : } S. DUNMORE,† M.S.I.A., A.R. San. I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector : } L. N. JORDON,† M.S.I.A., A.R. San. I.

Clerk : MISS D. G. BOYCE.

* Part time Officer.

† Salary Contribution by Exchequer Grants.



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
5, LIND STREET,
RYDE, I.W.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Ryde Borough Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my report on the health and sanitary circumstances for the year 1952. As last year, it includes an appendix by your Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Vital Statistics.

The estimated population fell from 19,810 to 19,730. The comparative Birth Rate and Death Rate, however, showed little change.

This year I have included a separate table to show the individual causes of death, both male and female, with the previous year's figures in brackets. From this table can be seen the preponderance of certain causes over others, the most striking being cancer—58 (46), cardiovascular diseases—167 (180), tuberculosis—3 (4) and accidents 3 (3).

Cancer of the lung or bronchus totalled 8, 7 males and 1 female. The total number of deaths from this form of cancer throughout the Island as a whole was 35, of which 32 occurred in males and only 3 in females.

Coronary disease alone caused 31 deaths. This disease is part of the penalty exacted by Nature for abusing our minds and bodies in the race to "succeed" in life. Fortunately, the tempo of life in the Isle of Wight is still at a reasonable level as compared with that in the areas of larger population on the mainland.

Infectious Diseases.

The total number of infectious diseases was only 50, as compared with 700 in 1951. This reduction was due to the abatement of the measles and whooping cough epidemics of the previous winter, when there were 514 cases of measles and 175 cases of whooping cough.

Accidents.

Deaths from accidents during recent years have, fortunately, been low. Last year there were no road deaths amongst the residents, and only three from other mishaps. For each death, however, there must be many accidents causing injury, and sometimes near-death, of which we have no official record. The Government is deeply concerned at the economic and social cost to the nation, and serious efforts are at last to be made to reduce the annual toll.

More fatal accidents occur in the house than on the roads, and it should be possible to reduce home accidents by education of the public. The chief causes are burns, scalds, falls, accidental poisoning and electrocution. The most vulnerable age-groups are children and old persons.

On visiting many households one can only wonder that there are not more fatal accidents. The hazards are many, but nearly all are preventable; these are loose hall-mats, badly lighted stairs, treacherously concealed steps between rooms, unguarded open fires and electric and gas fires, bottles of petrol on mantelpieces over fires, badly ventilated geysers, worn and frayed electric leads to irons and vacuum cleaners, electric hand switches on bathroom walls, unlabelled or insufficiently labelled bottles containing poisons, dangerous pills (often chocolate-coated) lying within reach of children—these, and many more, are daily threats to the lives of the occupants. Year after year, in different parts of the country, young women are killed by using electric hairdryers in bathrooms, housewives die from touching live electric leads, children touch bars of electric fires, party dresses burst into flames from contact with unguarded fires, old persons fracture their thighs from slipping on polished floors or from falling downstairs which have a hand rail on one side only.

If each householder would survey his house and his electrical equipment at intervals, bearing these points in mind, much suffering and many tragedies would be avoided.

Tuberculosis.

Once again, the total figures for tuberculosis show an increase, from 24 fresh cases in the previous year to 28 last year. The proportion of pulmonary, i.e., lung cases, to non-pulmonary, i.e. glands, bones, joints, meningitic cases, has



changed considerably. In 1951, there were five cases of non-pulmonary infection, whereas in 1952, there were at least 15 such cases, and very probably many more. All these 15 or more non-pulmonary cases were, in every probability, due to infected milk supplies, and at least one child died from the infection so contracted.

It is surprising how many housewives who are discriminating in their other household shopping, have little or no idea as to the nature, or degree of safeness of the milk they purchase.

Housing.

During 1952, 52 (38 Council and 14 private) new houses were built, and 58 families on the housing-list were re-housed. This is most encouraging, and it is apparent that the time is not far off when all urgent cases will have been re-housed.

There remains, however, the problem of the many unfit houses in the Borough. A number of these will have to be demolished before long, and their occupants transferred to alternative accommodation. Others there are, and many of them, which are inadequate by modern standards. These latter houses lack bathrooms, they have old-fashioned out-door closets, and they are not provided with efficient or economical means of heating. Such houses could be brought up to a reasonable standard and could provide comfortable accommodation for a further fifteen or twenty years, or more, if arrangements could be made whereby the owners could recover their financial outlay from a fair increase of the rents.

There are in addition, Regency and Victorian houses, which, until a few years ago, gave Ryde a rare dignity and charm, and which are now falling into decay. They are too large for their original use and their conversion to good self-contained flats would be too expensive for private owners, unless financial help could be given in some form.

Consideration of these aspects of the housing question could, even now, prevent further spread of housing estates into the countryside surrounding the town. At the same time, there could be an appreciable saving of money for the relief of the ratepayers.

National Assistance Act.

No fresh cases have arisen under which application has had to be made to the Courts for the removal of any person to a place of care and protection. It is a regrettable fact, however, that there are a number of elderly persons living alone on meagre pensions, in conditions bordering on squalor. Their plight is bad enough if they are lonely, but it is pitiful in the extreme when they eventually fall ill and are unable to gain admission to hospital.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. WARREN BROWNE,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS.

(1) GENERAL.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	7,876
No. of inhabited houses according to rate books (as at 31.3.53)	...	...	...	...	6,061
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	£164,878
Sum represented by 1d. rate	...	...	...	...	£656
Rainfall	...	...	...	...	29.97 inches
Sunshine	...	...	...	...	1,827.3 hours

(2) VITAL.

Population (Registrar's Figure)	...	...	19,730
	M.	F.	
No. of live legitimate births	136	112	248
No. of live illegitimate births	14	4	18
Live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	13.5
Comparative factor (births)	...	...	1.05
Comparative Birth Rate	...	...	14.2
Live Birth Rate England and Wales	...	...	15.3
No. of still-births	...	...	Nil.
Still-birth rate per 1,000 (live and still-births)	...	...	Nil.
	M.	F.	
Total number of deaths	150	153	303
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	15.4
Comparative factor (deaths)	...	...	0.71
Comparative death rate	...	...	10.9
Death rate England and Wales	...	...	11.3
Deaths from puerperal causes	...	...	Nil.
Rate per 1,000 (live and stillbirths)	...	...	Nil.
	M.	F.	
No. of deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year of age	5	4	9
No. of deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year of age	1	—	1
Death rate all infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	37.6
Death rate legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	36.3
Death rate illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	55.6
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	58

CAUSES OF DEATH.

CAUSE	MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1 (3)	1 (1)
Tuberculosis, other	1 (—)	— (—)
Syphilitic disease	1 (1)	1 (—)
Diphtheria	— (—)	— (—)
Whooping Cough	— (—)	— (—)
Meningococcal infections	— (—)	— (—)
Acute Poliomyelitis	— (—)	— (—)
Measles	— (—)	— (—)
Other infective and parasitic diseases	— (1)	— (—)
Malignant neoplasm. stomach ...	3 (3)	1 (2)
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7 (6)	1 (1)
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	1 (—)	9 (6)
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	— (—)	4 (—)
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	15 (13)	14 (13)
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	3 (—)	— (2)
Diabetes	— (—)	— (—)
Vascular lesions of nervous system	16 (10)	32 (32)
Coronary disease, angina	18 (17)	13 (12)
Hypertension with heart disease	7 (9)	7 (8)
Other heart disease	36 (35)	38 (50)
Other circulatory disease	6 (3)	6 (4)
Influenza	— (1)	— (4)
Pneumonia	5 (4)	4 (3)
Bronchitis	3 (7)	1 (1)
Other diseases of respiratory system	1 (4)	— (1)
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2 (2)	1 (2)
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa ...	1 (—)	— (—)
Nephritis and nephrosis	1 (5)	3 (2)
Hyperplasia of prostate	10 (3)	— (—)
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	— (—)	— (—)
Congenital malformations	1 (1)	2 (1)
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7 (17)	13 (14)
Motor vehicle accidents	— (—)	— (1)
All other accidents	1 (1)	2 (1)
Suicide	3 (—)	— (—)
Homicide and operations of war	— (—)	— (—)
ALL CAUSES	150 (146)	153 (161)

N.B. Figures for 1951 are entered in brackets.

Prevalence of Infectious and other Diseases.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	10	3	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infec- tion	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis(In- fective)	—	—	—
Measles	26	4	—
Whooping Cough ...	8	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Pneumonia	5	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	1	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic) ...	—	—	—
Totals ...	50	8	—

Age at Date of Notification.

Age.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Malaria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Whooping Cough	Measles	Meningococcal Infection	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	4	—	—	—	2	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	10	—	—	—	5	—	8	26	—	—	—	—	—	1	—

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

(a)	Total number of outbreaks	...	...	...	None
(b)	Number of single cases	...	...	...	None
(c)	Number of deaths	...	...	...	None

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases Return from Head Teachers of Schools.

Mumps	75
Chicken Pox	282
German Measles	47
Ringworm	1
Impetigo	1
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Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

		Age under 5 years	5—15 years
Estimated percentage of the child population it is considered were immunised at 31.12.52	...	43.4	55.3

(This estimate includes, so far as can be assessed, children immunised in the Authority's area by private arrangement and children who have come into the area after being immunised elsewhere).

Tuberculosis, 1952.

AGE PERIODS.	Totals.	New Cases.				Totals.	Deaths.			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1 and under 5	8	—	2	3	3	1	—	—	1	—
5 „ „ 10	9	1	—	6	2	—	—	—	—	—
10 „ „ 15	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 „ „ 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 „ „ 25	8	2	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 „ „ 35	6	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 „ „ 45	6	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 „ „ 55	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 „ „ 65	3	2	1	—	—	3	2	1	—	—
65 „ „ 75	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75 and over	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—
Total ...†	45	13	17	10	5	6*	3	2	1	—

†Included in this total are fifteen transfers from the mainland, one case in which the death return gave the first information, and two old cases who returned to the Island.

*This total includes three cases who died from another disease.

Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Acts, 1944.

Number of samples taken during 1952	...	...	57
Number of samples found to be T.B. positive	...		2
Number of samples in which Brucella Abortus was isolated	...	...	Nil.

Factories Act, 1937.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1952, for the Borough of Ryde, in the County of the Isle of Wight.

Part I of the Act.

1. **Inspections** for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	27	35	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	108	76	5	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	4	—	—
Total ...	135	115	5	—

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	9	9	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient... ..	2	2	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1	—	—	—
Total ...	14	14	—	2	—

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Ryde Borough Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my third Annual Report as your Senior Sanitary Inspector, and again, by permission of the Medical Officer of Health, it is set out separately.

It has been decided to again present my report on the lines of the two previous ones.

There have been no changes in the staff of the Department, and I am pleased to say that my Assistant, Mr. Jordan, after a lengthy absence from duty through ill health, made a good recovery from his illness and resumed full duties in April.

The year's work has gone through quite smoothly and without undue incidents, except that we have been involved in several legal actions, all of which were successfully contested when heard before the local magistrates. Reference will be made to the cases in subsequent sections of the report.

The report is set out in four sections as follows :—

Section I—Sanitary Circumstances.

Complaints.

341 complaints were received during the year, a decrease of 28 on the previous year.

Water Supply.

Under the I.W. Water Board Order, 1950, made under the Water Act, 1945, the I.W. Water Board took over the Water Undertaking from the Ryde Borough Council on the 1st April, 1951.

Prior to the Board's formation, regular bacteriological sampling was carried out by the Borough Water Engineer, but since the 1st April this year the Board have not continued this procedure. However, the County Medical Officer of Health, as Medical Officer to the Board, has requested that regular routine sampling for bacteriological examination be done by this Department, and 34 samples have been taken since April from mains taps, usually from public drinking fountains, food premises or household kitchen taps, and submitted to the Hospital Board Pathological Laboratory at the County Hospital in Ryde.

Of the 34 samples taken, all but one were reported as satisfactory, and this had fæcal contamination, which was traced to a local fault in the house system, which was corrected, and subsequent samples proved satisfactory.

Drainage.

No material change has taken place in the Borough drainage system during the year under review. The bulk of the sewage is discharged through four main outfalls into the Solent. The small sewage plant serving Havenstreet has continued to work efficiently, and proposals to re-construct the obsolete plant at St. Helen's have advanced a stage further, in that plans have been prepared and approved and now negotiations are in progress with the I.W. Rural District Council to add the sewage from Brading to this proposed new plant.

Particular attention has been paid to sewage disposal at camping sites, at one of which a new disposal plant is in course of construction.

The main sewers, as previously reported, are now considered small and easily overloaded, and, with the prospect of considerable building adding still further to the load, complaints of flooding of private drains connected to the systems are likely to increase, and indeed have already done so, resulting in our advising owners affected the costly remedy of installing anti-flood valves on their drains. This action, of course, increases pressure on the main sewers, and damage to these is then very liable to occur.

I continue to be perturbed by the number of septic tanks and cesspools which have to be installed in unsewered districts which are becoming built-up. These tanks, of course, have to be emptied as necessary by the Council's mechanical emptier. I would add that when plans for such installations are submitted, the Borough Surveyor consults the Health Department as to the suitability of such, thus reducing any possible future nuisance from the plant to a minimum.

Following an investigation into a drain defect, it became necessary for the Corporation to step in and renew a large section of pipes considered to be a length of public sewer within the meaning of Section 24, Public Health Act, 1936. The owners involved disputed their apportioned charge, whereupon Counsel was engaged by the Corporation, and Court proceedings had to be instituted against the owners of the

sewer, to recover £485 16s. 8d., which was the cost of the repairs. The magistrates heard evidence from the Departments of Public Health and the Borough Surveyor, and awarded, after making minor amendments to the apportionments, in favour of the Corporation. Two owners involved then decided to appeal, but the dispute was settled out of Court, and there the matter closed.

Public Cleansing.

This service is under the control of the Borough Surveyor. A weekly collection of domestic and trade refuse was maintained throughout the Borough during the year. A daily service for the collection of trade refuse in the main streets was carried out. A total of approximately 5,000 tons of refuse was collected and disposed of by "controlled tipping" at Nettlestone. Regular treatment of the tip by the Rodent Officer ensured no nuisance from vermin, and regular spraying of the tip surface during the fly-breeding season kept this pest under control.

Salvage of refuse was energetically carried out by the Department responsible throughout the year, with most satisfactory results, in that 168 tons of waste paper, rags, metals and miscellaneous items were salvaged, the sale of which produced £1,574.

Infectious Disease.

Infectious disease which has necessitated disinfection has been extremely low, and only four premises were disinfected following infectious disease.

The Council's steam disinfecting plant has been available for disinfection of any articles.

Caravans and Camping.

Four caravans were licensed during the year, this being the same number as in 1951. The number of enquiries received from persons wishing to station caravans within the district to use as housing accommodation has decreased. On matters arising out of the issue of licences for caravans, close liason has been maintained with the County Planning Officer.

Five privately-owned licensed camping sites were in operation, and these were well maintained, and again proved popular—not a single complaint was received from persons

using them. One camp for caravans and tents is being equipped with a modern sanitary and ablution block, and a second has dispensed with tents and will be equipped only with caravans on concrete standings.

During July and August a number of organised canvas camps (Scouts, etc.) and a few private individuals' camps were inspected whenever found, and, if it was necessary, advice to occupants was given, in order to comply with our "Standard Code for Camping" in operation in this Borough.

The large well known holiday camp in the Borough was augmented by a second one, accommodating 450 campers, and both were efficiently operated.

During the height of the summer season, each week at least 2,000 persons enjoy some form of camping holiday within the Borough.

In the autumn, a family were found to be living in deplorable conditions in two obsolete 'bus bodies which they had bought, and placed on a plot of land. Proceedings were taken under Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936, and the Court ordered their evacuation, and later the Planning Authority took action to have the dwellings removed.

Swimming Pools.

The large holiday camp at Puckpool is equipped with an open-air swimming pool, having a filtration and chlorination plant, and was again in constant use by the camp patrons and local schools during the summer. For a period the proprietors experienced difficulty in obtaining chlorine gas, but strong representations from this Department restored satisfactory delivery.

Two samples of water were taken from the pool, during periods when most used, and submitted to the pathological laboratory for bacteriological examination. Both samples were reported to be satisfactory.

A similar pool is in course of construction at the newly-opened St. Clare Holiday Camp, and will be in operation next summer.

Verminous Premises.

55 premises were treated to destroy vermin, this figure being just over double that of last year, but again only one of these was a bug infestation, the remainder being treated for flies, fleas, cockroaches and ants.

Shop Act, 1950.

At the end of the year there were 448 shops on the register, varying from the large stores in the main shopping centre to small family or household establishments. 246 inspections were made.

Factories Act, 1937.

There were 135 premises on the register, comprising 108 power factories and 27 non-power factories. Only two factories employ around 50 persons, the remainder comprising small businesses. 79 inspections were made, and 7 contraventions found and remedied by informal notice.

Rats and Mice.

These rodents are dealt with by the County Rodent Officer and his staff, who operate under the control of the I.W. (Rodents Destruction) Joint Committee, comprising representatives and sanitary inspectors of each Local Authority, and this system, which differs from the general practice of this country whereby each local authority operates its own local rodent control, works extremely smoothly and efficiently.

The number of inspections for rat infestation shows a small decrease on last year's figures, and the number of properties inspected comprised 24 Council properties, 696 dwelling houses, 4 agricultural premises and 75 business and industrial premises, and resulted in the discovery of 4 major and 153 minor infestations. 100 premises with mice infestations were also dealt with and a further 312 test baits were laid.

Summary of Inspections and Visits.

Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	118
Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	103
Re-visits to Premises under Notice—Public						
Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	88
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, etc.						226
Work in Progress	...	...	...	...	...	137
Verminous Premises or Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	58
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	16
Drainage Inspections and Tests				...	...	238
Cesspools, Sewage Works, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	19
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	113
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	1

Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	16
Factories, with Power	...	...	...	...	61
Factories, without Power	...	...	...	...	18
Outworkers' Rooms	...	...	...	...	1
Places of Entertainment, etc.	...	...	...	...	3
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	246
Schools	...	...	...	...	3
Vacant Land and Dumps	...	...	...	...	40
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	4
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	3
Foreshores, Streams, etc.	...	...	...	...	14
Common Yards and Passages	...	...	...	...	1
Dangerous Structures	...	...	...	...	7
National Assistance Act—Persons in need of care and attention	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	102

Nuisances Abated and Defects Remedied.

Drains Cleared of Obstructions	...	...	...	34
Drains Repaired or Reconstructed	...	...	...	52
Drains Connected to Sewers	...	...	...	6
Inspection Chambers Provided or Repaired	...	...	...	19
Cesspools Cleansed or Repaired	...	...	...	6
New Cesspools Constructed	...	...	...	2
Disposal Plants Installed	...	...	...	1
W.C's Cleansed	...	...	...	5
Offensive Accumulations Removed	...	...	...	17
Animals—Nuisances Abated	...	...	...	1
Dirty Premises Cleansed	...	...	...	1
Cellars Cleared after Flooding	...	...	...	4
Contraventions Remedied in Factories and Workplaces	...	...	...	7
Contraventions Remedied in Tents Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	3
Contraventions Remedied in Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	6
Dangerous Structures Made Safe	...	...	...	7

Section II—Housing.

During 1952 the housing problem has continued to be acute, despite the fact that the district is almost entirely residential. The acuteness is illustrated by the fact that 160

new applicants added their names to the Housing Manager's register, and at the end of the year 396 remained on his register.

Other house seekers have availed themselves of the opportunity to buy a house through the Council's Small Dwellings Acquisition Act Scheme, as is illustrated by the fact that 26 loans were taken up during the year.

However, it is considered that whereas three or four years ago 50 per cent. of the applicants on the register could be considered to be in dire and urgent need of housing accommodation, that figure has now been reduced to about 30 per cent.

The Council's housing programme has energetically continued, especially in the development of the Binstead Housing Estate. 38 new Council houses were completed. 14 privately-owned houses were also constructed.

We have continued to request repairs to cottage property whenever it has been necessary to do so, and, despite the continued low controlled rents and high cost of repairs, owners and agents have in the main co-operated well in complying with informal notices, and in only 12 instances was it necessary to follow up with the service of formal notices.

During the year two cottage properties were dealt with under Section II of the Housing Act, 1936. It was also necessary to take action under Section 58 of the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of a pair of cottages which were considered to have become dangerous to the occupants. The cottages were subsequently demolished.

In the absence of any directive from the Government relative to Slum Clearance, it is our intention during next year to at least make a start to remove the worst of our sub-standard houses, and then attention will be turned to closing the worst of our basement dwellings. In order to assist this programme, the Housing Committee propose to allocate 10 per cent. of Council houses, as they become available, to the Public Health Committee, to assist in re-housing any displaced families.

Details of Inspections, Visits, etc.

Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	120
Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	138

Re-visits to Premises under Notice—Public						
Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	237
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	53
Re-visits to Premises under Notice—Housing						
Acts	...	...	...	...	...	23
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, etc.						193
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	...	40
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	7
House-Boats	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	51

Nuisances Abated and Defects Remedied.

Chimneys and Stacks Repaired	...	...	...	9
Ceiling Plaster Repaired	...	...	...	25
Dampness Abated	...	...	...	41
Doors Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	15
Eaves Guttering Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	19
Fireplaces Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	11
Floors Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	25
Food Stores Provided	...	...	...	1
Roofs Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	39
Sinks Provided	...	...	...	12
Sinks Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	2
Sashcords Provided or Repaired	...	...	...	6
Stairs Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	4
Ventilation Provided	...	...	...	5
Walls (External) Repointed or Repaired	...	...	...	11
Walls (Internal) Repaired	...	...	...	48
Windows Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	30
Water Supplies Provided	...	...	...	2
Waste Pipes Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	2
New W.C's Provided	...	...	...	29
W.C. Compartments Repaired	...	...	...	11
W.C. Pedestals Provided	...	...	...	14
W.C. Cisterns Provided or Repaired	...	...	...	38
New Dustbins Provided	...	...	...	9

Section III—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

According to the Public Health Department records, there were 277 food premises operating in the Borough, excluding licensed premises. This figure shows an increase of 14 over last year.

Clean Food Campaign.

The Clean Food Campaign has continued throughout the year, and the standard of hygiene of food premises has been satisfactory. Frequent visits to premises have kept those in charge aware of their responsibilities to the public, especially the hotel and restaurant proprietors, who cater for many thousands of visitors during the year.

In a seaside resort such as Ryde, the catering trade now experiences during the busy months an acute difficulty in obtaining temporary staff, and have to recruit from a varied assortment of summer "immigrants" from the mainland, and local persons seeking seasonal employment. These employees are often not particularly concerned with the hygiene reputation of the establishment, and frequently, if checked by the management or we Inspectors, threaten to leave, knowing full well that by doing so the establishment would be unable to function, and that they would have no difficulty in finding highly-paid work elsewhere. The few permanent employees do not come into this picture, and are in the main very good.

Money has undoubtedly become "tighter," and little large-scale alterations in building or equipment of food premises have taken place, with one or two exceptions. The largest local bakery has now installed bread cutting and wrapping machinery—a step in the fulfilment of a plea I made to bakers at the inauguration of our Clean Food Campaign.

A large restaurant was burnt out last winter, and has operated this year under temporary arrangements. Energetic action had to be taken by this Department to get these premises re-built before next summer, and work is now well under way.

It was necessary to prosecute another local bakery firm following the discovery of a broken razor-blade in a wrapped cut loaf—the firm were fined £25 and costs, and widespread publicity was given to the case. Several sharp cautions were issued to traders in less serious reported instances of food contamination, and this action produced desired results.

Meat Inspection, etc.

There was no slaughtering of animals carried out within the Borough, all animals being slaughtered and inspected elsewhere prior to delivery and sale. Routine inspections and condemnations of meat have, however, been carried out.

The following quantities of meat were condemned as unfit:—

Meat (Imported)	...	...	...	2 cwts. 26 lb.
Meat (Home Killed)	...	...	...	5 cwts. 15 lb.
Poultry	...	...	...	157 lb.
Rabbits	...	...	...	16 lb.
Fish	...	...	...	5 stones

Condemned Foods, etc.

The quantities of tinned and packet foods have again been considerable, and this may be attributed to some extent to the appearance of imported brands from many countries where canning methods may not be all that could be desired, whereas products of reputable canning firms in this country and the Commonwealth rarely prove unsatisfactory. Considerable wastage occurs through damage in transit, rough handling, inferior packing and deterioration of unsaleable stock.

The following items of food were found to be unfit for human consumption, and condemned:—

Cooked Meats	...	...	...	...	130 lb.
Bacon	...	...	...	...	80 „
Dried Fruit	...	...	...	...	154 „
Margarine	...	...	...	...	312 „
Cheese	...	...	...	...	84 „
Butter	...	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ „
Meat, Milk, Fish, Vegetables, Fruit, etc.—					
				2,617 tins, jars and bottles	
Table Jellies	...	...	...	85—5 oz. packets	
Eggs	...	...	...	...	49 $\frac{1}{2}$ doz.
Jam Rolls	...	...	...	...	40
Iced Madeira Cake	...	...	...	...	1

Food Analysis.

72 samples of food were purchased by the County Council sampling officers, and submitted for analysis, as follows:—

	<i>Taken</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
<i>Milk</i>	57	2

The two unsatisfactory samples were from the same retailer and were both deficient in fat. The retailer was cautioned.

Five samples of milk were found to be genuine but of poor quality due to low solids non-fats content. In each case the producer was put in touch with the Animal Husbandry Section of the Ministry.

	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Ice-Cream	4	
Non-alcoholic Port		
Flavour Wine	1	
Fruit Bar	—	1 Label not marked with weight or ingredients. Manufacturers undertook to remedy this.
Orange Squash	1	
Jam	1	
Blackcurrant Syrup	1	
Honey Cream Toffee	1	
Barley Sugar	1	
Glucose Barley Sugar	1	
Honey Butterscotch	—	1 10 per cent. deficient of butter fat. Manufacturer cautioned.
Brompton Cough		
Lozenges	1	
Synthetic Cream		
Powder	1	

Milk Supplies.

This Department is now only responsible for milk distribution within the Borough. There were 11 distributors registered, comprising a large company distributing pasteurised milks which are heat treated in the Newport Borough, and private distributors with businesses of varying sizes. These small dairies are operated satisfactorily.

Towards the end of the year a registered distributor was found to be selling bottled milk labelled as supplied from a Tuberculin Tested herd, when this was not the case. The facts were passed to the Food and Drugs Authority (I.W. County Council), following which they instituted proceedings, and, as a result, the distributor was fined £60, and costs.

The following registrations and licences were operative during the year :—

Registration as Distributor of Milk	...	...	11
Registration of Premises used as a Dairy	...		9
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"	...		8
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Accredited"	...	...	1
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	...	...	7

Ice-Cream.

The popularity of this food has now reached a very high level, and competition by makers to sell their products, either direct or through local shops, has been intense. Applications to register premises under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, for the storage and sale of ice-cream have continued to be regularly received, and a further 12 premises were duly registered, making a grand total of 119 on our register. The same two premises as in previous years are registered for manufacture, storage and sale. In considering registration of premises, we have continued our policy of limiting sale in mixed shops selling greengrocery and similar articles to wrapped ice-cream only.

During the year 30 informal samples were taken for bacteriological examination (Methylene Blue Reduction Test), and the results were as follows :—

Grades	I	II	III	IV
	13	8	8	1

Bakehouses.

There were 21 bakehouses operating in the Borough at the end of the year. None is an underground bakehouse. No material improvements have taken place, as the bakers all state that their profit margin at present is too low to permit any large scale reconstruction or expansion.

Licensed Premises.

As in previous years, a Sanitary Inspector again accompanied the Police when the annual inspection of the 64 licensed premises in the Borough were made, prior to the annual licensing sessions.

The hygiene standard of the premises, with one exception, was again very good, and this year, now that all are equipped with wash-up sinks, hot and cold water and good sanitary accommodation, attention was concentrated on those cellars used for beer storage, as a result of which schedules of repairs and re-decorations, as required, were sent to the brewers concerned, and duly carried out.

In future, it has been decided to carry out inspections independent of the Police visits, and a report on all the premises will be issued to the magistrates at their annual licensing session.

Details of Inspections, Visits, etc.

Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	20
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, etc.						170
Re-visits to Premises under Notice—Food and						
Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	...	25
Butchers' Shops		...	...	...	...	35
Fishmongers and Poulterers			...	...	...	7
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	13
Grocers and Other Food Shops				...	...	79
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	39
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	29
Dairy Farms	...	...	...	...	...	8
Ice-Cream Premises		...	...	...	...	72
Restaurants and Kitchens			...	...	...	82
Licensed Premises		...	...	...	...	69
Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	23
Food Enforcement		...	...	...	...	124
Infestations	...	...	...	...	...	11
Food Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	29
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	32

Contraventions Remedied in :—

Butchers' Premises	...	...	...	...	1
Food Premises Generally		...	...	...	55

Summary of Notices Served (Sections I, II, and III.

Public Health Act (Informal)	...	...	...	188
Public Health Act (Formal)	...	...	...	12
Dangerous Structures	...	...	...	2
Housing Act (Informal)	...	...	...	1

Housing Act (Formal)	...	...	...	...	—
Factories Act, Mechanical Power			...	...	2
Factories, Non-Mechanical	...	...	...	...	3
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	2
Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	49
Milk and Dairies Regulations	...	...	...	...	3

Section IV—Miscellaneous.

In addition to the duties carried out by this Department in accordance with Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935-51, the following duties are administered :—

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

During the licensing year 1952/53, commencing 1st May, 1952, 41 premises were licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit, and the total amount for which these licences were issued was 37,040 gallons. Three licences to store 190 gallons of petroleum mixtures were issued. £26 15s. 0d. in fees, was paid to the local Authority for the above licences.

50 visits were made to the garages and petroleum stores for the purpose of ascertaining that the Act and Regulations were being complied with. Two new petroleum storage tanks and pumps were installed this year, and the installations of which were supervised through all stages.

Shops Act—Closing Hours.

The Department is responsible for the compliance with “hours of closing” by shops within the Borough, as required by the Shops Act and various Closing Orders made in past years by the Council. It is intended to recommend revision and consolidation of these various Orders before next season, in order to clarify the present complications in the hours of closing at different seasons for a great variety of trades.

Hackney Carriages and Drivers.

53 Hackney Carriages were licensed during the licensing year 1952/53, commencing 1st May, 1952. The Council's Byelaws made in respect of such vehicles are administered by the Health Department, and resulted in 214 inspections and visits being made.

The drivers of these vehicles are also subject to similar control, and 62 were issued with hackney carriage drivers' licences during the licensing year.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

With the coming into operation of this Act, on the 1st April, another duty has been delegated to our multifarious list of miscellaneous ones. The public were duly informed, through the *Press*, of this new Act, and, as a result, two applications were received to license premises as pet shops. Both were considered as suitable, and the necessary licences duly issued—neither has since given cause for any complaint.

Lectures, Talks, etc.

As a result of various invitations received, talks have been given to local organisations on the work of the Public Health Department, with emphasis on the duties of Sanitary Inspectors, and, in co-operation with the Hospital Board, lectures and demonstrations have been given to trainee nurses preparing for their S.R.N. examinations. Lectures have also been given and examinations set to senior scouts aspiring to become Queen's Scouts.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. DUNMORE,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.



